

Message Text

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SAJ-01 NSC-05 EB-07 ERDA-05 /075 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3552

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 USNATO 5016

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, MPOL, PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: STANDARDIZATION CONSULTATIONS: MATERIALS PROVIDED SYG
LUNS AND ALLIES

REF: A. STATE 176498

B. STATE 200959

SUMMARY: TEXTS OF "US VIEWS ON ESSENTIAL BASES FOR STANDARDIZATION"
AND TALKING POINTS WHICH WE HAVE DISTRIBUTED DURING INITIAL
CONSULTATIONS WITH SYG LUNS AND ALLIES FOLLOW. END SUMMARY.

1. THERE FOLLOWS BELOW TEXT OF "US VIEWS ON ESSENTIAL BASES FOR
STANDARDIZATION" WHICH WE PREPARED (DRAWING ON REF A) AND FURNISHED
SYG LUNS AND AMBASSADORS FROM UK, FRG, THE NETHERLANDS AND BELGIUM.
BEGIN TEXT:

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US VIEWS ON ESSENTIAL BASES FOR STANDARDIZATION

I. MILITARY IMPACT. IF THE ALLIED FORCES ARE TO ACHIEVE AN
IMPROVED CAPABILITY TO FIGHT TOGETHER, PRESENT A COHESIVE

FRONT, AND RESPOND TO A DYNAMIC MILITARY THREAT, WE MUST ACHIEVE IMPROVEMENTS IN STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY. WE SHOULD SEEK TO STANDARDIZE WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT SO THAT INTEROPERABILITY IS MAXIMIZED IN ALL REGIONS, ALLOWING ALLIES TO SUPPORT EACH OTHER AND REGROUP MORE EFFECTIVELY. THIS APPLIES TO THE CENTER REGION, WHERE FORCES OF SEVERAL ALLIES COULD BE INTERMIXED AND FORCED TO OPERATE TOGETHER IN THE EVENT OF A MAJOR PENETRATION BY THE WARSAW PACT, AND THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN REGIONS, WHERE INTEROPERABILITY IS IMPORTANT TO FACILITATE THE OPERATION OF NATO IMMEDIATE REACTION AND MAJOR REINFORCEMENT FORCES FROM OUTSIDE THESE REGIONS. INTEROPERABILITY AND, WHERE APPLICABLE, STANDARDIZATION ARE ALSO ESSENTIAL FOR NAVAL FORCES TO OBTAIN THE MAXIMUM DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY AND IMPROVE THEIR COMBINED COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS.

II. ECONOMIC IMPACT. THE ECONOMIC PAYOFF FROM STANDARDIZATION CAN BE DERIVED FROM BOTH LOWER UNIT COSTS FOR THE SELECTED SYSTEM AND LOWER LOGISTIC AND SUPPORT COSTS. WE WOULD INTEND THAT THESE SAVINGS BE APPLIED TO FUND GREATER FORCE IMPROVEMENTS. IN SOME CASES THE ALLIANCE MAY WISH TO CHOOSE HIGHER MILITARY EFFECTIVENESS AS THE CRITERIA FOR DECIDING ON A SPECIFIC ITEM RATHER THAN LOWER UNIT COST. IN SUCH CASES THE ECONOMIC PAYOFF FROM STANDARDIZATION MAY COME FROM LOWERED LOGISTIC AND SUPPORT COSTS RATHER THAN INITIAL PROCUREMENT COSTS.

III. LONG-TERM COMMITMENT. STANDARDIZATION OF WEAPONS SYSTEMS IN THE ALLIANCE MUST BE PERCEIVED AS A LONG-TERM COMMITMENT AND ORGANIZATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED TO PROVIDE FOR CONTINUING WORK IN THIS AREA. IF MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE VIEW STANDARDIZATION AS ONLY A TRANSITORY PHASE, THEIR WILLINGNESS TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL CONCESSIONS FOR ANTICIPATED FUTURE RETURNS WILL BE UNDERMINED.

IV. MAINTAIN NATIONAL BASIS OF SUPPORT. IN THE PROCESS OF ACHIEVING GREATER STANDARDIZATION, THERE IS NO INTENT TO ELIMINATE THE NATIONAL CHARACTER OF NATO DEFENSE FORCES. WE DO NOT FORESEE COUNTRIES DELEGATING MAJOR DEFENSE FUNDING

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DECISIONS TO SOME SUPRANATIONAL AUTHORITY. INDEED, UNLESS EACH NATION IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS DEFENSE CONTRIBUTION, POLITICAL LEADERSHIP WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY MAINTAINING MILITARY BUDGET LEVELS, PARTICULARLY IN THE FACE OF COMPETING CIVIL DEMANDS. IN OUR VIEW, STANDARDIZATION SHOULD BE PERCEIVED AS FACILITATING RATHER THAN CHALLENGING THE DISCHARGE OF NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

V. THE TWO-WAY STREET. THE US AND EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE WILL CONTINUE TO PRODUCE MOST TYPES OF MAJOR WEAPONS SYSTEMS WITH OR WITHOUT STANDARDIZATION. WITH GREATER STANDARDIZATION IN NATO, PRODUCTION WOULD BE LARGE ENOUGH IN MOST CASES TO JUSTIFY TWO PRODUCTION LINES PRODUCING THE

SAME SYSTEM, ONE ON EACH SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC. ONE COULD ENVISAGE PROTOTYPE COMPETITION OPEN TO BOTH US AND EUROPEAN DEVELOPERS, OR US-EUROPEAN CONSORTIA, FOLLOWED BY COMMON PRODUCTION OF THE WINNING SYSTEM. ANY ARRANGEMENT FOR SETTLING ON ONE SELECTION SYSTEM MUST PROVIDE FOR REWARD TO THE WINNER WITHOUT EXCESSIVELY PENALIZING THE LOSERS. PERHAPS LICENSE FEES AND APPROPRIATE SHARING OF THIRD COUNTRY SALES WOULD BE A METHOD FOR ACCOMPLISHING THIS. THE RESULT SHOULD BE MORE EFFICIENT USE OF R&D FUNDS, ECONOMIES OF SCALE IN PRODUCTION, AND STANDARDIZED EQUIPMENT. PRODUCTION OF SYSTEMS NOT REQUIRING OR JUSTIFYING TWO PRODUCTION LINES SHOULD BE ALLOTTED EQUITABLY BETWEEN THE US AND EUROPE, MAKING USE OF CO-PRODUCTION OF SUB-SYSTEMS WHERE APPROPRIATE AND AN AGREED MECHANISM FOR ADJUSTING OVERALL MILITARY ACCOUNTS PERIODICALLY. ALTHOUGH IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT HAVING TWO OR MORE PRODUCERS SOMETIMES PRECLUDES THE ATTAINMENT OF MAXIMUM THEORETICAL SAVINGS FROM STANDARDIZATION, THE POLITICAL NEED TO MAINTAIN NATIONAL SUPPORT FOR DEFENSE PROGRAMS IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION.

VI. RATIONAL EUROPEAN DEFENSE PRODUCTION BASE. FOR STANDARDIZATION TO YIELD THE BENEFITS ANTICIPATED, THE EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF NATO PROBABLY WILL HAVE TO RATIONALIZE AND RESTRUCTURE THEIR R&D EFFORTS AND DEFENSE INDUSTRIES. RATHER THAN MAINTAIN MANY SMALL INDUSTRIES IN THE SAME FIELD, WITH POSSIBLE INEFFICIENT PRODUCTION AND INADEQUATE CAPITALIZATION, LARGER PRODUCTION FACILITIES SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED WHICH CAN REALIZE THE GAINS OF ECONOMY OF SCALE AND CAN PRODUCE FOR AN

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ATLANTIC MARKET. EUROGROUP COULD PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN MAKING THE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS. THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY MUST ALSO BE CONSIDERED. IN SOME CASES THESE ADJUSTMENTS WILL BE DIFFICULT AND REQUIRE A TRANSITION PERIOD TO IMPLEMENT. HOWEVER, IF STANDARDIZATION IS TO PRODUCE THE DESIRED RESULTS, IT MUST NOT BE USED TO PROP UP INEFFICIENT OR MARGINAL DEFENSE INDUSTRIES. THE PROSPECT OF ACCESS TO AN ATLANTIC-WIDE MARKET SHOULD PROVIDE A STRONG INCENTIVE TO MAKE THE NECESSARY INVESTMENTS AND ADJUSTMENTS.

VII. HARMONIZING WEAPONS REQUIREMENTS AND MILITARY DOCTRINE. SINCE WEAPONS REQUIREMENTS ARE BASED IN LARGE PART ON PERCEPTIONS OF THE THREAT AND THE TACTICS AND STRATEGY FOR DEALING WITH IT, MAJOR DIFFERENCES IN BASIC ASSUMPTIONS AND DOCTRINE HAVE HISTORICALLY CAUSED NATIONS TO SEEK DIFFERENT EQUIPMENT FOR THE SAME BASIC JOB. IN ORDER TO FACILITATE STANDARDIZATION, GREATER EMPHASIS SHOULD BE GIVEN TO HARMONIZING BASIC DOCTRINE TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO ARRIVE AT COMMON WEAPONS REQUIREMENTS FOR FUTURE SYSTEMS.

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

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VIII. IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STANDARDIZATION. AS A PART OF THE PLANNING FOR FUTURE FORCE STRUCTURE AND RELATED MILITARY REQUIREMENTS, OPPORTUNITIES FOR STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY MUST BE IDENTIFIED SUFFICIENTLY EARLY TO ALLOW FAIR COMPETITION AND AGREEMENT ON COMMON OR INTEROPERABLE SYSTEMS. THE ALLIANCE MUST ORGANIZAE THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPABILITY TO DEVELOP A LONG-TERM PLAN FOR R&D AND PROCUREMENT SCHEDULES SO THAT STANDARDIZATION INITIATIVES CAN BE STARTED AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY, BEFORE COUNTRIES ARE FORCED TO MAKE UNILATERAL DECISIONS OR VESTED INTERESTS PRECULE FLEXIBILITY. SUCH A PLAN COULD NOT BE BINDING, OF COURSE, BUT WOULD SERVE AS A ROAD MAP. RATHER THAN AN IDEAL PLANN IT WOULD BE A USABLE COMPILATION OF COUNTRY PLANS PERMITTING POSSIBLE ADJUSTMENTS. THE BURDEN OF JUSTIFICATION SHOULD BE PLACED ON ANY COUNTRY THAT OPTS FOR A NON-STANDARD SYSTEM. THE LONG-TERM PLANNING ALREADY COMPLETED OR CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN NATO MIGHT BE DRAWN ON AS APPROPRIATE.

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END TEXT

2. WE MADE MINOR CHANGES TO TEXT OF "US VIEWS ON ESSENTIAL BASES FOR STANDARDIZATION", WHICH WE FURNISHED TO AMBASSADORS FROM FRANCE, ITALY AND CANADA AND TO NORWEGIAN DEFENSE ADVISOR. UNLESS INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE, WE PROPOSE TO DISTRIBUTE THAT REVISION AT FIRST NAC

MEETING ON STANDARDIZATION (ABOUT SEPTEMBER 19). THERE FOLLOWS BELOW
REVISED TEXT OF PARAS I, V, VI AND VIII. BEGIN TEXT:

I. MILITARY IMPACT. IF THE ALLIED FORCES ARE TO ACHIEVE AN
IMPROVED CAPABILITY TO FIGHT TOGETHER WE MUST ACHIEVE
IMPROVEMENTS IN STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY. WE
SHOULD SEEK TO STANDARDIZE WEAPONS AND EQUIPMENT SO THAT
INTEROPERABILITY IS MAXIMIZED IN ALL REGIONS, ALLOWING
ALLIES TO SUPPORT EACH OTHER AND REGROUP MORE EFFECTIVELY.
THIS APPLIES TO THE CENTER REGION, WHERE FORCES OF SEVERAL
ALLIES COULD BE INTERMIXED AND FORCED TO OPERATE TOGETHER
IN THE EVENT OF A MAJOR PENETRATION BY THE WARSAW PACT, AND
THE NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN REGIONS, WHERE INTEROPERABILITY IS
IMPORTANT TO FACILITATE THE OPERATION OF NATO IMMEDIATE
REACTION AND MAJOR REINFORCEMENT FORCES FROM OUTSIDE THESE
REGIONS. INTEROPERABILITY AND, WHERE APPLICABLE,
STANDARDIZATION ARE ALSO ESSENTIAL FOR NAVAL FORCES TO
OBTAIN THE MAXIMUM DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY AND IMPROVE THEIR
COMBINED COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS.

V. TRANSATLANTIC FLOW: THE TWO-WAY STREET. THE US AND
EUROPEAN MEMBERS OF THE ALLIANCE WILL CONTINUE TO PRODUCE
MOST TYPES OF MAJOR WEAPONS SYSTEMS WITH OR WITHOUT, STANDARDIZATION.
WITH GREATER STANDARDIZATION IN NATO, PRODUCTION WOULD BE LARGE
ENOUGH IN MOST CASES TO JUSTIFY TWO PRODUCTION LINES PRODUCING THE
SAME SYSTEM, ONE ON EACH SIDE OF THE ATLANTIC. ONE COULD
ENVISAGE PROTOTYPE COMPETITION OPEN TO BOTH US AND EUROPEAN
DEVELOPERS, OR US-EUROPEAN CONSORTIA, FOLLOWED BY COMMON
PRODUCTION OF THE WINNING SYSTEM. ANY ARRANGEMENT FOR
SETTLING ON ONE SELECTION SYSTEM MUST PROVIDE FOR REWARD TO
THE WINNER WITHOUT EXCESSIVELY PENALIZING THE LOSERS. PERHAPS
LICENSE FEES AND APPROPRIATE SHARING OF THIRD COUNTRY SALES
WOULD BE A METHOD FOR ACCOMPLISHING THIS. THE RESULT SHOULD
BE MORE EFFICIENT USE OF R&D FUNDS, ECONOMIES OF SCALE IN
PRODUCTION, AND STANDARDIZED EQUIPMENT. PRODUCTION OF SYSTEMS
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NOT REQUIRING OR JUSTIFYING TWO PRODUCTION LINES SHOULD BE
ALLOTTED EQUITABLY BETWEEN THE US AND EUROPE, MAKING USE OF
CO-PRODUCTION OF SUB-SYSTEMS WHERE APPROPRIATE AND AN AGREED
MECHANISM FOR ADJUSTING OVERALL MILITARY ACCOUNTS PERIODICALLY.
ALTHOUGH IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT HAVING TWO OR MORE PRODUCERS
SOMETIMES PRECLUDES THE ATTAINMENT OF MAXIMUM THEORETICAL
SAVINGS FROM STANDARDIZATION, THE POLITICAL NEED TO MAINTAIN
NATIONAL SUPPORT FOR DEFENSE PROGRAMS IS ALSO AN IMPORTANT
CONSIDERATION.

VI. RATIONAL EUROPEAN DEFENSE PRODUCTION BASE. FOR STANDARDIZATION
TO YIELD THE BENEFITS ANTICIPATED, MANY EUROPEAN
MEMBERS OF NATO PROBABLY WILL HAVE TO RATIONALIZE AND RESTRUCTURE
THEIR R&D EFFORTS AND DEFENSE INDUSTRIES. RATHER THAN
MAINTAIN MANY SMALL INDUSTRIES IN THE SAME FIELD, WITH

POSSIBLE INEFFICIENT PRODUCTION AND INADEQUATE CAPITALIZATION, LARGER PRODUCTION FACILITIES SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED WHICH CAN REALIZE THE GAINS OF ECONOMY OF SCALE AND CAN PRODUCE FOR AN ATLANTIC MARKET. IN SOME CASES, INDUSTRIAL ADJUSTMENTS WILL BE DIFFICULT AND REQUIRE A TRANSITION PERIOD TO IMPLEMENT. HOWEVER, IF STANDARDIZATION IS TO PRODUCE THE DESIRED RESULTS, IT MUST NOT BE USED TO PROP UP INEFFICIENT OR MARGINAL DEFENSE INDUSTRIES.

THE PROSPECT OF ACCESS TO AN ATLANTIC-WIDE MARKET SHOULD PROVIDE A STRONG INCENTIVE TO MAKE THE NECESSARY INVESTMENTS AND ADJUSTMENTS.

VIII. IDENTIFYING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STANDARDIZATION.
OPPORTUNITIES FOR STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY MUST BE IDENTIFIED SUFFICIENTLY EARLY TO ALLOW FAIR COMPETITION AND AGREEMENT ON COMMON OR INTEROPERABLE SYSTEMS. THE ALLIANCE MUST ORGANIZE THE INSTITUTIONAL CAPABILITY TO DEVELOP A LONG-TERM PLAN FOR R&D AND PROCUREMENT SCHEDULES SO THAT STANDARDIZATION INITIATIVES CAN BE STARTED AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPPORTUNITY, BEFORE COUNTRIES ARE FORCED TO MAKE UNILATERAL DECISIONS OR VESTED INTERESTS PRECLUDE FLEXIBILITY. SUCH A PLAN COULD NOT BE BINDING, OF COURSE, BUT WOULD SERVE AS A ROAD MAP. RATHER THAN AN IDEAL PLAN, IT WOULD BE A USABLE COMPILATION OF COUNTRY PLANS PERMITTING POSSIBLE ADJUSTMENT. THE BURDEN OF JUSTIFICATION SHOULD BE PLACED ON ANY COUNTRY THAT OPTS FOR A NON-STANDARD SYSTEM. THE LONG-TERM PLANNING ALREADY COMPLETED OR CURRENTLY
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UNDERWAY IN NATO MIGHT BE DRAWN ON AS APPROPRIATE. END TEXT.

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

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3. THERE FOLLOW BELOW TALKING POINTS (DRAWN FROM REF B) WHICH AMBASSADOR BRUCE GAVE TO SYG LUNS DURING INITIAL STANDARDIZATION CONSULTATIONS ON AUGUST 26. BEGIN TEXT:

- DRAWING ON THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS AT THE SUMMIT, THE US HAS ESTABLISHED AS A FIRM OBJECTIVE THE IMPROVEMENT OF STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY WITHIN NATO.
 - OUR INITIAL OBJECTIVE IS TO PROPOSE IN THE NAC BY MID-SEPTEMBER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STEERING COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD REPORT TO THE NAC AND, AS A FIRST STEP, DEVELOP PRINCIPLES FOR COOPERATION IN STANDARDIZATION FOR ENDORSEMENT BY MINISTERS, HOPEFULLY IN DECEMBER.
 - OUR FEELING IS THAT THIS STEERING COMMITTEE MIGHT BE CHAIRED BY DSYG PANSA AND CONSIST OF SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM ALL DELEGATIONS AS WELL AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY AGENCY FOR STANDARDIZATION AND THE ASYG'S FOR DEFENSE SUPPORT AND PLANNING.
 - THE US WANTS VERY MUCH TO INVOLVE FRANCE IN THIS
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- STANDARDIZATION INITIATIVE, BOTH IN THE WORK OF THE STEERING GROUP AND IN THE SPECIFIC STANDARDIZATION EFFORTS TO FOLLOW.
- WE ARE ALSO WELL AWARE OF THE EUROGROUP'S "TWO-WAY STREET" INITIATIVE WHICH MR MASON DISCUSSED AT THE MAY MINISTERIAL MEETING. THE US WANTS TO PROCEED IN A WAY THAT WOULD COMPLEMENT EUROPEAN COOPERATION, BOTH IN DEALING WITH NORTH AMERICAN AND IN RATIONALIZING EUROPEAN DEFENSE INDUSTRIES.
 - IN A RELATED AREA, MY DEFENSE ADVISOR, DR. LEGERE, OUTLINED TO THE EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP ON JULY 31 A US PROPOSAL TO EXPAND THE DPC'S EXISTING SPRING REVIEW SO THAT NATO COULD DEVELOP MORE EFFECTIVE COOPERATIVE FORCE GOALS ON A REGIONAL BASIS. WE SEE THIS COOPERATIVE APPROACH TO FORCE PLANNING DEALING TO SOME EXTENT WITH STANDARDIZATION ISSUES AND WOULD HOPE FRANCE COULD SOMEHOW BECOME ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCESS.
 - WASHINGTON HAS ASKED ME TO CONSULT WITH KEY AMBASSADORS NOW ON OUR DEVELOPING STANDARDIZATION INITIATIVE. FOLLOWING INITIAL MEETINGS WITH THE UK AND FRG, AND DEPENDING ON REACTIONS, I WILL THEN MEET WITH AMBASSADOR DE ROSE TO SOLICIT FRANCE'S SUPPORT AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION.
 - I WILL KEEP YOU ADVISED OF SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN MY MEETINGS AND I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON THIS INITIATIVE.
- END TEXT.

4. THERE FOLLOW BELOW TALKING POINTS (DRAWN FROM REF B) WHICH AMBASSADOR BRUCE DISTRIBUTED DURING INITIAL STANDARDIZATION CONSULTATIONS WITH AMBASSADORS FROM UK, FRG, BELGIUM, THE NETHERLANDS,

ITALY AND CANADA AND WHICH DR. LEGERE DISTRIBUTED DURING CONSULTATIONS

WITH HIS NORWEGIAN COUNTERPART. BEGIN TEXT:

- AT THE SUMMIT MEETING IN MAY, PRESIDENT FORD SPOKE OF THE NEED TO IMPROVE THE STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN NATO. HE ALSO CALLED FOR ALLIED AGREEMENT ON A SENSIBLE DIVISION OF WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND PRODUCTION RESPONSIBILITIES.
- IN ENDORSING STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY IN NATO AS A CONTINUING, PRIORITY OBJECTIVE, THE US BELIEVES THAT THEY ARE NOT ENDS IN THEMSELVES, BUT RATHER MUST SERVE TO ACHIEVE MORE EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES AND ENHANCE COMBAT CAPABILITY.
- . DURING A NAC MEETING IN THE NEAR FUTURE, WE PLAN TO SET FORTH CONFIDENTIAL

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OUR VIEWS ON THE ESSENTIAL BASES FOR IMPROVED ALLIANCE-WIDE STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY. WE WILL PROPOSE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STEERING COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD REPORT TO THE NAC, PERHAPS ON A MONTHLY BASIS.

- WE BELIEVE THAT THIS STEERING COMMITTEE MIGHT BE CHAIRED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL PANSA AND CONSIST OF SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM ALL DELEGATIONS AS WELL AS THE ASSISTANT SECRETARIES GENERAL FOR DEFENSE SUPPORT AND FOR DEFENSE PLANNING AND POLICY; THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY AGENCY FOR STANDARDIZATION; AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE, PERHAPS THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN.

- WE BELIEVE THAT THE STEERING COMMITTEE, AS A FIRST STEP, SHOULD DEVELOP A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES FOR ALLIANCE EFFORTS TOWARD IMPROVED STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY. WE HOPE MINISTERS WOULD ENDORSE THESE PRINCIPLES IN DECEMBER.

- WE HAVE SPECIFICALLY CHOSEN TO CONCENTRATE EFFORTS IN THE NAC ARENA IN ORDER TO GIVE FRANCE EVERY REASONABLE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN WORK ON NATO STANDARDIZATION. THE US STRONGLY DESIRES FRENCH INVOLVEMENT BOTH IN THE WORK OF THE STEERING GROUP UNDER THE NAC AND IN OTHER STANDARDIZATION PROGRAMS TO FOLLOW. WE RECOGNIZE THE MANY POLITICAL PROBLEMS, BUT WE BELIEVE THAT NATO MUST MEET THIS ISSUE SQUARELY.

- . AS A COMPLEMENTARY MEASURE, THE US MISSION'S DEFENSE ADVISOR, DR. LEGERE, HAS OUTLINED TO THE EXECUTIVE WORKING GROUP OUR PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS ON WAYS TO EXPAND THE EXISTING DPC SPRING REVIEW TO ENCOURAGE IMPLEMENTATION OF IMPROVED MILITARY COOPERATION AMONG ALLIES ON A REGIONAL BASIS. WE SEE THIS COOPERATION INCLUDING STANDARDIZATION MEASURES, PARTICULARLY SHORTER TERM EFFORTS TO PROMOTE INTEROPERABILITY, AND OTHER RATIONALIZATION ACTIVITIES. WE WOULD ALSO HOPE THAT FRANCE COULD FIND A WAY TO ASSOCIATE ITSELF WITH THIS ENTERPRISE, AND WE ARE OPEN-MINDED ABOUT WAYS IN WHICH THIS MIGHT BE ACCOMPLISHED.

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3555

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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- THE US IS MOST INTERESTED IN DEALING WITH EUROPEAN ALLIES ON A BASIS WHICH WOULD PROMOTE A COMMON EUROPEAN APPROACH TO STANDARDIZATION AND FACILITATE HARMONIZATION OF EUROPEAN DEFENSE INDUSTRIES. WE EXPECT THAT EUROPEAN ALLIES MUST TAKE INITIATIVES IN THIS IMPORTANT AREA. WE ARE VERY MUCH AWARE OF ONGOING EUROGROUP ACTIVITIES AND THE "TWO-WAY STREET" INITIATIVE WHICH MR. MASON DISCUSSED AT THE MAY MINISTERIAL MEETING. WE THEREFORE WISH TO PROCEED IN A WAY THAT WOULD COMPLEMENT, NOT COMPROMISE, EUROPEAN COOPERATION, BOTH IN DEALING WITH THE US AND CANADA AND IN RATIONALIZING EUROPEAN DEFENSE INDUSTRIES. WE WOULD WELCOME VIEWS ON METHODS BY WHICH EUROPEANS MIGHT ORGANIZE TO DEAL WITH STANDARDIZATION ON A TRANSATLANTIC BASIS.

- I HAVE FOR YOUR PERSUAL AND TO PROMOTE FURTHER DISCUSSION A MORE DETAILED ELABORATION OF SOME ESSENTIAL CONSIDERATIONS WHICH THE US SEES ASSOCIATED WITH IMPROVED ALLIANCE-WIDE STANDARDIZATION. ALTHOUGH I RECOGNIZE THAT YOU WILL WISH TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER
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WITH YOUR AUTHORITIES, I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY PRELIMINARY COMMENTS YOU HAVE ON THE GENERAL CONCEPT I HAVE OUTLINED AND SPECIFICALLY ON :

-- THE ESSENTIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR STANDARDIZATION;
-- WAYS TO OBTAIN COUNCIL AGREEMENT ON A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES GOVERNING STANDARDIZATION; AND

-- MECHANISMS FOR ENCOURAGING MAXIMUM FEASIBLE FRENCH PARTICIPATION.
END TEXT.

5. THERE FOLLOW BELOW TALKING POINTS (DRAWN FROM REF B) WHICH AMBASSADOR BRUCE DISTRIBUTED DURING INITIAL STANDARDIZATION CONSULTATIONS WITH AMBASSADOR DE ROSE (FRANC). BEGIN TEXT:

AT THE SUMMIT MEETING IN MAY, PRESIDENT FORD SPOKE OF THE NEED TO IMPROVE THE STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT IN NATO. HE ALSO CALLED FOR ALLIED AGREEMENT ON A SENSIBLE DIVISION OF WEAPONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND PRODUCTION RESPONSIBILITIES.

IN ACCEPTING IMPROVED STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY OF EQUIPMENT AS CONTINUING HIGH PRIORITY DEFENSE OBJECTIVES, THE US RECOGNIZES THE KEY ROLE OF FRANCE IN EUROPEAN ARMAMENTS PRODUCTION.

FRANCE'S PARTICIPATION CAN CONTRIBUTE GREATLY TO ALLIED EFFORTS IN THIS FIELD.

WITHOUT FRANCE, THE ALLIES CANNOT HOPE TO REALIZE FULLY THE BENEFITS POSSIBLE THROUGH GREATER COOPERATION IN ARMAMENTS DEVELOPMENT,

PRODUCTION AND PROCUREMENT IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

GREATER ALLIED COOPERATION COULD LEAD TO BETTER USE OF NATIONAL DEFENSE RESOURCES THROUGH REDUCING DUPLICATION OF EFFORT AND OBTAINING GREATER ECONOMIES OF SCALE. IN THIS WAY, ALLIED DEFENSES COULD BE STRENGTHENED THROUGH THE POSSIBILITY OF ACQUIRING MORE, OR MORE MODERN, WEAPONS SYSTEMS AND BY HAVING THOSE SYSTEMS COMMON OR, AT LEAST, INEROPERABLE. THE IMPROVEMENT OF ALLIED DEFENSE CAPABILITY, THE US BELIEVES, SHOULD BE THE BASIC GOAL OF STANDARDIZATION.

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BECAUSE OF THE IMPLICATIONS FOR ALL ALLIES OF COOPERATION IN ARMAMENTS, WE SEE THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL AS THE PROPER FORUM FOR DISCUSSING SUCH EFFORTS.

THUS, DURING A NAC MEETING EARLY THIS FALL, WE PLAN TO SET FORTH OUR VIEWS ON THE ESSENTIAL BASES FOR IMPROVED STANDARDIZATION AND INTER-OPERABILITY OF EQUIPMENT. WE WILL PROPOSE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STEERING COMMITTEE WHICH WOULD REPORT TO THE NAC, PERHAPS ON A MONTHLY BASIS.

WE BELIEVE THAT THIS STEERING COMMITTEE MIGHT BE CHAIRED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL PANSA AND CONSIST OF SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM ALL DELEGATIONS AS WELL AS THE ASSISTANT SECRETARIES GENERAL FOR DEFENSE SUPPORT AND FOR DEFENSE PLANNING AND POLICY; THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY AGENCY FOR STANDARDIZATION; AND A REPRESENTATIVE

OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE, PERHAPS THE DEPUTY
CHARIMAN.

WE BELIEVE THAT THE STEERING COMMITTEE, AS A FIRST STEP, SHOULD
DEVELOP A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES FOR ALLIED EFFORTS TO IMPROVE
STANDARDIZATION AND INTEROPERABILITY. WE HOPE THE MINISTERS COULD
ENDORSE THESE PRINCIPLES IN DECEMBER.

IN RECENT DAYS, I HAVE DISCUSSED THIS STANDARDIZATION INITIATIVE
WITH OTHER AMBASSADORS. ALTHOUGH UNINSTRUCTED, THEY GENERALLY
SUPPORTED THE US IDEAS ON IMPROVING STANDARDIZATION. IN EVERY CASE,
THEY SHARED OUR HOPE THAT FRANCE COULD ASSOCIATE ITSELF FULLY WITH
THIS ENTERPRISE.

I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS ON THE CURRENT FRENCH POSITION WITH
REGARD TO ENHANCED PARTICIPATION IN ALLIED STANDARDIZATION EFFORTS.
I WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE TIMING AND CONTENT
OF MY INITIAL PRESENTATION IN THE NAC AND ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE
PROPOSED STEERING COMMITTEE.

MY AUTHORITIES HAVE PREPARED AN OUTLINE OF PRINCIPLES FOR COOPERATION
ON WHICH I HAVE DRAWN IN FORMULATING A PAPER CALLED, "US VIEWS ON
ESSENTIAL BASES FOR STANDARDIZATION". THESE PRINCIPLES ARE MORE
EXPLICIT BUT GENERALLY CONSISTENT WITH THE SPIRIT OF THOSE
PREVIOUSLY AGREED WHEN THE CONFERENCE OF NATIONAL ARMAMENTS
DIRECTORS WAS FORMED. I HAVE FOR YOU COPIES OF THIS PAPER AND I
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WOULD VALUE YOUR COMMENTS AFTER YOU HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY
TO EXAMINE THE IDEAS MORE CLOSELY.

SECRETARY SCHLESINGER IS PLANNING A TRIP TO EUROPE THIS MONTH
AND IS SCHEDULED TO VISIT PARIS ON SEPTEMBER 29 AND 30. I EXPECT
HE WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS STANDARDIZATION ISSUES WITH FRENCH
OFFICIALS. ANY INSIGHTS YOU COULD PROVIDE CONCERNING SPECIFIC
POINTS HE MIGHT RAISE, AND WITH WHOM, WOULD BE VALUABLE TO ME.

IN SUMMARY, YOUR VIEWS WOULD BE WELCOME ON ;

- THE FRENCH ATTITUDE TOWARD PARTICIPATION IN STANDARDIZATION
EFFORTS;
 - THE TIMING AND CONTENT OF MY INITIAL NAC PRESENTATION;
 - THE PAPER, "US VIEWS ON THE ESSENTIAL BASES FOR STANDARDIZATION";
AND
 - HOW SECRETARY SCHLESINGER MIGHT ADDRESS THIS INITIATIVE DURING
HIS PARIS VISIT. END TEXT.
- BRUCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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